

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 IO-13 MCT-01 SY-05
USSS-00 /094 W
-----071201Z 102511 /22

P R 071118Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0458
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USCINCPAC HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0320

MONTREAL FOR USREP ICAO; CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IN, PK
SUBJ: INDIA DEPLORES HIJACKERS RELEASE

REF: A. NEW DELHI 0268 (NOTAL); B. ISLAMABAD 0144

1. THE GOI ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 6 RELEASED A
STATEMENT DEPLORING THE PAKISTANI DECISION TO RELEASE
THE HIJACKERS AND REJECT THE INDIAN REQUEST TO RETURN
TEHM TO INDIA FOR TRIAL. THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS STATEMENT FOLLOWS: QUOTE: THE DECISION OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN TO RELEASE THE HIJACKERS OF THE
INDIAN AIRLINES BOEING AIRCRAFT, ON THE PLEA THAT SUFFICIENT
EVIDENCE WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO JUSTIFY THE
INSTITUTION OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THEM, IS
HIGHLY REGRETTABLE. IT IS CONTRARY TO THE ASSURANCES
GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA AND THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL
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AVIATION ORGANISATION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HAS ALSO NOT AGREED TO
THE SUBSEQUENT REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO
RETURN THE OFFENDERS TO INDIA TO FACE TRIAL. THE GOVERN-
MENT OF INDIA DEPLORES THESE MOVES AS THEY ARE NOT IN
CONSONANCE WITH THE PROCESS OF NORMALISATION OF RELA-

TIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH CAN BE STRENGTHENED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING.
END QUOTE.

2. POLICY PLANNING CHIEF, G. PARTHASARATHI, WHO WAS JUST COMPLETING WORK ON THE ABOVE MEA STATEMENT WITH JOINT SECRETARY (PAKISTAN/AFGHANISTAN) I.P. SINGH WHEN THE CHARGE ARRIVED FOR AN APPOINTMENT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, JAN 6, TOLD THE CHARGE, "THE EVENT WAS DISTURBING." PARTHASARATHI SAID THAT THE PAKISTANIS HAD HANDLED THE HIJACKING MATTER QUITE SMOOTHLY. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PRESSURES THAT THEY WERE UNDER, PARTICULARLY WITH THE ELECTIONS COMING SOON. HE SAID NEVERTHELESS THEIR ACTION IN RELEASING THE PRISONERS WAS GOING QUITE FAR. HE SPOKE CALMLY ON THE MATTER, HOWEVER, AND DID NOT SUGGEST THE GOI INTENDED TO MAKE A MAJOR ISSUE OF IT.

3. COMMENT: OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT THE INDIANS ARE INDEED DISTURBED, AND FELT THEY MUST AT LEAST RAISE A PUBLIC COMPLAINT OVER THE HIJACKERS' RELEASE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOI SEES THIS AS A MAJOR PAKISTANI DEPARTURE FROM PRESENT POLICY, NOR WOULD THE GOI LIKE TO SEE THE OVERALL TREND OF IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS REVERSED. I.P. SINGH SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THAT THE MEA VIEWS THE ACTION AS A "ONE-DAY STORY."

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON APPROPRIATE USG POSITION ON PAK ACTION SHOULD GOI OFFICIALS QUERY US.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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